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Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 IO-14

NIC-01 DRC-01 /176 W
---------- 059041
R 221419Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000KK
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
USINT DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
RUESBTOXAMEMBASSY RABAT 1816
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: N/A DECON 3/22/75
TAGS: ELAB, /*, MO, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE LABOR LEADER COMMENTS ON ICATU AND ICFTU

REF: CASABLANCA 188 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: LEBANESE LABOR LEADER, BACK FROM ATTENDING RECENT ICATU MEETING, IS UP ON ICATU AND DOWN ON ICFTU. HE CONFIRMED THAT ARABS QUIETLY DISPOSED OF QUESTION OF LABOR BOYCOTT OF US INTERESTS AT MEETING IN MOROCCO. END SUMMARY.

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2. LEBANESE LABOR LEADER GABRIEL KHOURY CONFIRMED QUIET DIS-

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POSAL OF MATTER OF ARAB LABOR BOYCOTT OF US INTERESTS BY INTER-
NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB TRADE UNIONS (ICATU) FOLLOWING
HIS RETURN FROM ICATU MEETING AT CASABLANCA. IN TALK WITH
REGIONAL LABATT, KHOURY SAID DELEGATES DISCUSSED SUBJECT AT
LENGTH, ULTIMATELY DECIDING TO BURY BOYCOTT QUIETLY BY SCRUBBINBG
ITEM FROM CONFERENCE AGENDA AND OMITTING MENTION IN FINAL
COMMUNIQUE.

3. OVERALL, KHOURY SUMMED UP MEETING AS SUCCESS FOR ARAB
LABOR MODERATES. WHILE LITTLE TANGIBLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED, PARTI-
CIPANTS WERE GENERALLYREALISTIC AND REASONABLE, THEREBY AVOIDING
MUCH OF STERILE RHETORIC AND DIVISIVE DEBATE THAT CHARACTERIZED
PREVIOUS SUCH MEETINGS. HE SINGLED OUT IRAQIS AS CHIEF HARD-
LINERS,BUT NOTED THAT, ASIDE FROM MANAGING TO BLACKBALL THREE
DELEGATIONS (JORDANIAN, SUDANESE, AND NORTH YEMENI), THEY HAD
SCANT SUCCESS IN PRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON CONFERENCE.

4. AS EXPECTED, KHOURY (A LONG-STANDING ANTI-COMMUNIST)
DEPLORED APPEARANCE OF COMMUNIST WFTU SECGEN GENSOUS AT
ICATU CONCLAVE BUT, SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, WAXED EQUALLY
NEGATIVE ABOUT ICFTU (WHICH WAS NOT RPT NOT INVITED BY ICATU
BUT TO WHICH KHOURY'S HOME-BASE FEDERATION--UNITED UNIONS-- HAS
LONG BELONGED). CONTENDING THAT ICFTU'S POSTURE HAD BEEN
PATENTLY PRE-ISRAELI OF LATE, HE QUESTIONED USEFULNESS OF CONTINUING
AFFILIATION. ADDING THAT HE HAD RECENTLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT ICFTU
CONTRIBUTION OF LL 3,000 FOR ORGANIZING TRADE UNION SEMINAR IN
LEBANON, HE DECLARED HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT PERSONALLY ATTEND
ANOTHER ICFTU MEETING AND MIGHT YET DECIDE TO PULL HIS FEDERATION
OUT OF BODY. REFERRING BACK TO ICATU, HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT
CURRENT EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR TOWARDS REGIONAL GROUPINGS
DICTATED THAT LEBANESE UNIONS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ARAB WORLD
TIES, COUPLED WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN OUTSIDE NA-
TIONAL LABOR CENTERS SUCH AS AFL-CIO.

5. COMMENTS: APART FROM DETAILS ABOUT ICATU TREATMENT OF
LABOR BOYCOTT, KHOURY'S REMARKS ABOUT CASABLANCA MEETING NOTE-
WORTHY PRIMARILY AS ONE ARAB MODERATE'S POSITIVE REACTION TO
APPARENT UPBEAT TREND IN INTER-ARAB LABOR CIRCLES.

6. HIS NEGATIVE SLQGUPOXILSOU#SHOULD PROBABLY BE READ IN
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CONTEXT DOMESTIC LEBANESE SITUATION. HOURY IS CURRENTLY RUNNING
FOR RE-ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LEBANESE
LABOT (CLL) AND HAS CONSEQUENTLY BEEN ACTING MORE ARAB THAN
USUAL. MOREOVER, THERE ARE REPORTS HE MAY RELINQUISH TOP
POST IN UNITED UNIONS FEDERATION IN ORDER TO HEAD UP NEW BANK
EMPLOYEES FEDERATION, IN WHICH CASE QUESTION OF FURTHER AFFILIA-
TION WITH ICFTWOULD REVERT TO HIS SUCCESSOR IN FORMER FEDERA-
TION. DESPITE HIS SHIFTING VIEWS ON ICATU AND ICFTU, HOWEVER,

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KHOURY MADE CLEAR HIS INTEREST IN CONTINUING TIES WITH US LABOR.
GODLEY

NOTE BY OCT: BEIRUT 3346 #AS RECEIVED.
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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